

Folsom, PA— Congressman Sestak paid a visit to his home VFW Post, the Herbert Best Post 928, last evening to honor three members with citations. The Congressman thanked the members of the Post for their lifelong contributions to preserving our national security and recognized newly installed officers: Commander Gene Taylor; Senior Vice Commander Gerry Gavin; Junior Vice Commander Tom Brown; Quartermaster Joe Bowman; Adjutant Nick Constantine; and Chaplain Phil Atwood. — “As dedicated leaders of Post 928, these men have embodied the VFW’s motto, ‘honoring the dead by helping the living’,” said Congressman Sestak. “Their continued dedication to our country serves as a reminder of the importance of service, whether abroad in the military or right here at home in our own communities.”

As part of the national organization of “Veterans of Foreign War,” Post 928 is responsible for a variety of programs which provide services for veterans and those in active duty. Most notably, the VFW runs the “Military Assistance Program,” which provides services to active duty, Guard and Reserve military units, “Operation Uplink,” a program which connects military personnel with their family members by providing complimentary phone cards, and the “Unmet Needs Program,” which provides grant money to aid families with home, transportation and medical expenses.

“With more than 700,000 military spouses across the country, the VFW reminds us of the critical importance of not only reaching out to our nation’s service men and women, but also their families, through programs like ‘Unmet Needs,’” said the Congressman. “Having served 31 years in the Navy, I know the difference that any small gesture, whether a free calling card or a grocery stipend, can make for soldiers and their families.”

Since taking office, Congressman Sestak has been an outspoken advocate of legislation to aid Veterans and their families. Recently, the Congressman voted for and passed the Military Reservists and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2008, which became law on Feb 14, 2008. Among other provisions, the Act expands opportunities for Veteran owned businesses and strengthens relief to small businesses employing National Guard Members and Reservists. Additionally, Congressman Sestak voted for and passed the Heroes Earnings Tax Assistance and Relief Act, or HEART, which includes tax provisions intended to assist military personnel and their families, Veterans, and public service volunteers.

In addition to his legislative efforts, the Congressman has been busy reaching out to Veterans in the community, most recently at his second annual Veterans’ Summit in May. The evening began with Veterans and service members—from all services who fought in conflicts from World

War II to Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom—visiting the 35 booths set up outside the auditorium to help Veterans with everything from medical claims to Social Security. The summit also consisted of two panels comprised of senior representatives of the Department of Veterans Affairs and other experts to address issues concerning Veterans.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.*